

Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks

World Heritage 101



WHAT IS WORLD HERITAGE?

World Heritage sites are locations that have universal value to humanity and are preserved for future generations to appreciate and enjoy. This connects humanity's legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what is passed on to future generations. This designation will protect and preserve these heritage sites while allowing people throughout the world learn and visit these culturally significant locations.

The World Heritage List is a prestigious list that includes famous sites throughout the world such as the Great Pyramid of Giza (Egypt), Machu Picchu (Peru), and Stonehenge (England) to name a few. The United States currently has 25 sites on the World Heritage List with the inclusion of the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks.

WHO WERE THE HOPEWELL CULTURE?

The Hopewell Culture was an ancient American Indian culture that lived in the area nearly 2,000 years ago. They built complexes of earthen architecture and mounds throughout southern and central Ohio. The architecture included precise geometrical shapes such as squares, octagons, and circles which they accurately replicated throughout the region. Many of these complexes of earthworks contain astronomical alignments with lunar and solar events which occur throughout the year.

WHAT IS THE HOPEWELL CEREMONIAL EARTHWORKS?

Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks is the official name of the World Heritage nomination which is composed of eight sites in southern and central Ohio. This is known as a "serial nomination" since it is not one specific site but a group of sites that tell the cultural story. Ross County has five sites that are managed and protected by the National Park Service and the Ohio History Connection manages the remaining three sites with two locations in Licking County and one site in Warren County.

WHERE TO LEARN MORE:

Hopewell Culture National Historical Park: nps.gov/hocu

Ohio History Connection: ohiohistory.org

World Heritage Ohio: worldheritageohio.org

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization: whc.unesco.org

HOPEWELL CEREMONIAL EARTHWORKS SITES

ROSS COUNTY

Hopewell Culture National Historical Park

- Mound City Group (Chillicothe)
- Hopewell Mound Group (Chillicothe)
- Hopeton Earthworks (Chillicothe)
- Seip Mound (Bainbridge)
- High Bank Works (Chillicothe - Not yet open to the public)

Community Resource:

Ross-Chillicothe Visitors Bureau: visitchillicotheohio.com

LICKING COUNTY

- Great Circle Earthworks (Heath)
- Octagon Earthworks (Newark)

Community Resource:

Licking County Visitors Bureau: explorelc.org

WARREN COUNTY

- Fort Ancient (Lebanon)

Community Resource:

Warren County Visitors Bureau: ohioslargestplayground.com

